

Twomey Under Pressure, Tells Of Police Graft

Witness at Inquiry Begs Hirschfeld to "Settle the Whole Thing" and Not to Torture and Frighten Him

Patrolmen Deny Charge

Accuser Declares He Is Sane While Describing Promotion Contributions

Joseph Twomey, the policeman who gave to David Hirschfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, the information that he had collected \$1,500 apiece from eighteen patrolmen and had given it to a saloon keeper named Burke upon assurances from Burke that he could get the policemen promoted to sergeants at the civil service examinations last August, spent an uncomfortable hour on the witness stand, yesterday, at the resumption of the investigation by Commissioner Hirschfeld.

Three of the patrolmen who, Twomey said, had paid him \$1,500, preceded him on the witness stand and denied that they had paid any money to Twomey. When Twomey came to testify he showed a loss of memory, and could not be certain that he had collected money from the policemen, though he insisted that he "believed" he had and turned it all over to Burke, who afterwards went to Ireland. Threatened with prosecution for perjury by Commissioner Hirschfeld, Twomey finally said that he did get the money.

Commissioner Hirschfeld asked Twomey if anybody had threatened him.

Witness Began for Mercy

"What good would that do?" replied Twomey. "They couldn't do any more to me than they have already done." The witness admitted, however, that he had not been handled roughly by anyone. He begged Commissioner Hirschfeld to "settle the whole thing" and not torture and frighten him.

"I am inclined to turn you over to the District Attorney and let you get what is coming to you for the way you have testified," threatened the Commissioner.

"All right," said Twomey, "I don't care what becomes of myself, but I don't want to harm anybody else."

Twomey had made out slips, he said, at the time he collected the money from the policemen, on which he put the man's name, the number of his shield and the index number and seat number at the civil service examination. Commissioner Hirschfeld had these slips and the individual policeman from the slips, and asked whether he got the information and money from each one, Twomey hedged for a long time, saying he couldn't be sure, but believed he did.

"Why don't you know?" asked Commissioner Hirschfeld.

"I have met some of these men whose slips you have produced," replied the witness, and they tell me I am crazy.

"Are you crazy?" asked the Commissioner.

"I don't think so," said Twomey.

"Are you trying to play the Tighe game and go to the penitentiary and claim you are crazy?" asked the Commissioner.

"I'm not trying to play any game," Twomey replied.

Admits Collecting Money

The witness appeared nervous and worried as he was pressed for direct answers to the questions. It was at the close of an hour's examination that he finally admitted that he had collected the \$1,500 from each of the patrolmen named on his slips.

Michael O'Keefe, of 4293 Park Avenue, the Bronx, attached to the 38th Precinct, one of the patrolmen mentioned by Twomey, denied that he paid any money. A bankbook belonging to O'Keefe was introduced in evidence, which showed that on August 13, 1921, he had drawn \$1,500 from the bank. The civil service examinations for sergeants were held on August 6, O'Keefe produced a note, dated August 13, 1921, made by J. T. Wickes, for \$1,000, payable twelve months after date. O'Keefe said that he had lent the money to Wickes for a building proposition.

Commissioner Hirschfeld asked the witness if he was sure the note was drawn on August 13. When O'Keefe replied that it was, the Commissioner wanted to know if O'Keefe knew the law in regard to perjury. The witness said he did, but was not inclined to change his testimony.

Benjamin F. Foster, of 261 Madison Street, Brooklyn, and George Merz, of 1770 Grand Concourse, the Bronx, two other policemen originally mentioned by Twomey as having paid him \$1,500 each, were called as witnesses and denied that they had paid the money.

\$100,000 Drug Shipment Bared in Smuggling Plot

Narcotic Said to Have Been Thrown From Liner Outside of Quarantine

Unusual methods of an alleged drug smuggling ring were reported yesterday to have been detected by narcotic agents under Director Frank Oyler of the government narcotic division. The new developments involve a shipment of \$100,000 worth of heroin, which, it is charged, had been thrown from a liner outside Quarantine and picked up by agents of the ring in this country, who met the liner in a launch.

The circumstances reported by Director Oyler yesterday developed from an investigation of an arrest several days ago of two men charged with possessing and passing drugs, and the seizure of twenty-ounce cans of powdered and compressed heroin. The seizure is worth \$2,000, and is said by Director Oyler to be a part of the \$100,000 shipment. The case is still under investigation, and Oyler said yesterday that he hoped to locate the remainder of the shipment.

"I would not care to give you the names of my informants," said Mr. Oyler, "but we were informed that these twenty tins were part of a shipment which is worth \$100,000, street vending prices. There is no doubt that agents of the ring in this country had a launch and that they met the liner outside of Quarantine at night. The bags were thrown overboard probably on a prearranged signal and picked up by the launch. The shipment was brought to this side on an Italian liner, without the knowledge of the ship's owners or officers."

James Milo, twenty-seven, a laborer of 225 Bowers, charged last Sunday with possessing narcotics, and who, it was learned, had been selling his blood for transfusion purposes, was sentenced to serve four months in the Workhouse by Justices Voorhes, Herman and O'Keefe in Special Sessions yesterday.

Play Test of "10-Cent" Knife Ends in Hospital and Jail

"Hymie," Though, Doesn't Blame Philip. Even if Phil's Blade Did Slip Through an Overcoat and Then Miss "Hymie's" Heart by a Quarter-Inch

Two boys were sitting on the back fence of 157 Norfolk Street after dark Tuesday night. The two had just come out from dinner and there was nothing wrong with the world.

The elder of the two, Philip Rosenberg, sixteen, turned to his companion, Hyman Dratt, eleven, on whose back fence they were balanced. "Guess, Hy, what pop gave me for my birthday," he challenged.

"Skates," said Hyman promptly.

"I got skates," retorted the sixteen-year-old, "you couldn't guess how old you were if you knew, so I'll tell ya. I got a knife and it's a pippin."

"Let's see it," demanded Hyman, and his request was granted, with reservations.

Philip refused to let the knife out of his hand. "Look out! It's sharp! It'll cut ya," he warned, turning the gift so that the blade reflected the light of an alley lamp.

"Cut me!" hooted Hyman. "Why I betcha it wouldn't even go through my overcoat!"

"Do you dare me?" asked Philip of his friend.

"Dare! Double dare!" shouted Hyman. "Little old ten-cent knife, go ahead and see if you can stab me." And he turned toward Philip.

The sixteen-year-old boy then, according to his statement made later to the police, pushed the knife against the breast of Hyman.

"Do you feel it?" he asked his companion.

"Ouch! Yes! You scratched me!" was the answer.

The two jumped off the fence and ran to the end of the street. Standing in front of the drug store at the corner, Hyman unbuttoned his coat and found his shirt front saturated with blood.

When a call was sent for an ambulance, in Bellevue Hospital, where Hyman was taken, it was found that the path of the knife had missed the boy's heart by less than a quarter of an inch, and that the wound was not serious.

After the ambulance, carrying his friend, had clanged its way out of Norfolk Street, Philip went to the Fifth Street police station. He is being held for less than a quarter of an inch, and is being held for less than a quarter of an inch, and is being held for less than a quarter of an inch.

When Hyman regained consciousness in the hospital he said, "Phil told me it. He didn't mean it; but they'll never understand."

Philip was released from the hospital and is now in jail.

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Five Builders Arrested for Theater Crash

Sub-Contractors Charged With Using Inferior Material in Building Which Crushed Workers to Death

Seventh Body Is Found

Two Owners Previously Seized Are Released in \$15,000 Bail Each

Another body was recovered yesterday from the mass of twisted steel and broken brick at Bedford and Park avenues, Brooklyn, where the unfinished American Theater collapsed on Tuesday and buried the men working upon it in the ruins. This brings the total number of known dead in the disaster to seven, while eleven of the workmen, critically injured, are in three Brooklyn hospitals.

Positive identification of the latest victim dug out of the wreckage has not yet been made, but the body is believed to be that of George Smith, thirty years old, a lath worker, of 1110 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn.

District Attorney Harry E. Lewis of Brooklyn moved swiftly yesterday in his investigation to determine whether criminal negligence was in any way responsible for the disaster. Late in the afternoon five sub-contractors were placed under arrest on his orders on charges of homicide contained in an affidavit which alleges they "used inferior material in constructing a theater that collapsed, killing seven men, on November 29, 1921."

Lewis Inspects Wreckage

The Kings County prosecutor refused to make any statement regarding his investigation other than to voice his determination to fix the blame where it belonged. It is known, however, that during the day he went into all the details concerning the brick, stone and structural steel used in the building. He left early in the evening to inspect the wreckage. It is understood that he will next investigate whether the Builders Department inspectors performed their duty. He took charge of the site and refused to permit any one to enter other than those engaged in the work of digging for bodies.

The five men arrested are Charles U. Bluchstein, of 203 Lexington Avenue, Manhattan, and James Kavanaugh, of 12 Kingsland Place, Elmhurst, creators of the steel work, and Severo, Michael and Vito Cannella, brothers, of 1315 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, the mason sub-contractors.

All five were taken to the Vernon Avenue police station. They were arrested by Detectives Robert Daley, Michael Alt and Frank Wolter. They will be arraigned in the Gates Avenue court this morning.

Sylvester Rosenthal and Samuel Moskowitz, the owner and building contractors of the theater, were arraigned before Magistrate Liota yesterday, charged with manslaughter in the first degree and held for examination without bail. Later in the day their counsel obtained a writ of habeas corpus and they appeared before Supreme Court Justice Kelly, who released them on bail of \$1,000 each.

Brick and Steel Blamed

The different groups engaged in the construction of the collapsed building are blaming each other for the wreck. The steel workers are alleging that the mortar used in the brick work was inferior, and the brick contractors are blaming the steel.

In this connection Joseph Gimbalyo, counsel for the three Cannella brothers, said that the central column supporting a cantilever girder had collapsed, carrying with it the girder and other steel beams, which resulted in the north wall collapsing. He said that in the opinion of his clients this central column was not properly braced.

District Attorney Lewis is investigating this charge, and also will inquire why the steel work was permitted by the Building Department if the charge is found to be true.

It was said that one workman still is missing. This might be possible, Neil. His son told the police that he was not absolutely sure that his father was at work on the theater.

Dr. Charles V. West, Kings County Medical Examiner, assisted by Dr. Ernest M. Vaughan, of the District Attorney's staff, examined the seven bodies in the Kings County Morgue yesterday. They performed an autopsy on the body of Philip Stein, one of the sub-contractors in charge of cement work. Stein was found to have died from suffocation, and the same was believed to be true in the other cases, as the bodies did not bear any marks of serious injury.

Local Forecast.—Fair to-day; cloudy to-morrow; moderate temperature; moderate southwest winds.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows temperatures during the last twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

1921. 1920.

3 a. m. - 31 30 3 p. m. - 40 40

6 a. m. - 41 40 6 p. m. - 44 47

9 a. m. - 42 41 9 p. m. - 46 48

12 noon - 49 46 12 p. m. - 42 45

Highest temperature yesterday, 50 degrees (at 2 p. m.); lowest, 36 degrees (at 1 a. m.); average, 43 degrees; average same date last year, 44 degrees; average same date for thirty-three years, 39 degrees.

Humidity

5 a. m. - 75 1 p. m. - 41 8 p. m. - 60

Barometer Readings

5 a. m. - 29.88 1 p. m. - 29.83 8 p. m. - 29.87

General Weather Conditions

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The coast storm has moved east-northeastward and to-night its center was south of New-England with the lowest bar at 29.85 inches, at St. John's. Another disturbance is being tracked north and moving eastward from the Gulf of Mexico, and it already has reached the Rocky Mountain region. Local rains also have fallen in Texas and the central Mississippi Valley. The weather was everywhere generally over the United States.

In the middle Atlantic and New England states the weather was, on Thursday, generally unsettled, and cloudy, with a few showers of rain, and in the south Atlantic states the weather was mild and generally cloudy Thursday and Friday. In the east Gulf states, Tennessee and the Ohio Valley the weather will be overcast and mild, with local rains by Thursday night and Friday. In the region of the Great Lakes the weather will be overcast, followed by rain Thursday night or Friday, and with lower temperature Friday in the upper lake region.

Forecast by Districts.—Eastern New York: Fair to-day; to-morrow, cloudy; moderate temperature.

Southern New England.—Fair to-day; to-morrow, cloudy.

Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.—Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow, cloudy and unsettled; moderate temperature.

Western Pennsylvania and western New York.—Cloudy to-day and to-morrow; local rains to-morrow; continued mild.

Weather Report

Sun rises 7:00 a. m. Sun sets 4:39 p. m. Moon rises 3:35 a. m. Moon sets 6:42 p. m.

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